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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,996	07/24/2001	Markus Cech	19361-495600	5238

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PIERCE ATWOOD
One Monument Square
Portland, ME 04101

EXAMINER

HARVEY, JAMES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,996

Applicant(s)

CECH ET AL.

Examiner

James R. Harvey

Art Unit

2833

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

COPY OF PAPERS

The papers filed on 7-24-01 to 9-9-2002 have not been made part of the permanent records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) for this application (37 CFR 1.52(a)) because of damage from the United States Postal Service irradiation process. The above-identified papers, however, were not so damaged as to preclude the USPTO from making a legible copy of such papers. Therefore, the Office has made a copy of these papers, substituted them for the originals in the file, and stamped that copy:

**COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED**

If applicant wants to review the accuracy of the Office's copy of such papers, applicant may either inspect the application (37 CFR 1.14(d)) or may request a copy of the Office's records of such papers (*i.e.*, a copy of the copy made by the Office) from the Office of Public Records for the fee specified in 37 CFR 1.19(b)(4). Please do **not** call the Technology Center's Customer Service Center to inquiry about the completeness or accuracy of Office's copy of the above-identified papers, as the Technology Center's Customer Service Center will **not** be able to provide this service.

If applicant does not consider the Office's copy of such papers to be accurate, applicant must provide a copy of the above-identified papers (except for any U.S. or foreign patent documents submitted with the above-identified papers) with a statement that such copy is a complete and accurate copy of the originally submitted documents. If applicant provides such a copy of the above-identified papers and statement within **THREE MONTHS** of the mail date of this Office action, the Office will add the original mailroom date and use the copy provided by applicant as the permanent Office record of the above-identified papers in place of the copy made by the Office. Otherwise, the Office's copy will be used as the permanent Office record of the above-identified papers (*i.e.*, the Office will use the copy of the above-identified papers made by the Office for examination and all other purposes). This three-month period is not extendable.

Information Disclosure Statement

- The Information Disclosure statement(s) and related documents that were filed on 7-24-01 have been considered.

Art Unit: 2833

Election/Restrictions

- Applicant's election with traverse of (claims 1-9 (Group I)) in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is not a serious burden on the examiner. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The burden is associated with the ability to provide applicant with a quality examination becoming hindered by the complexities that are inherent with the other invention claimed.

- The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL

Priority

- Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Art Unit: 2833

- Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doyle et al. (4053198).

-- In reference to claim 1,

a base body 12a in which at least one plug contact 42 is arranged, the at least one plug contact 42 permitting an insertion of an electric feed line 18 in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact 42, and

a fitting part (12b, 14, 16) which is movable with respect to the base body 12a from a first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch) to a second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock (figure 1c)) and which permits a lateral access at the rear end of the at least one plug contact 42 to the at least one plug contact 42 in the first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch) and, in the second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock), laterally covers the at least one plug contact 42.

-- In reference to claim 2,

the fitting part (14, 16) is axially movable with respect to the base body 12a.

-- In reference to claim 3, Doyle shows (figure 1c)

the fitting part (12b, 14, 16) comprises at least one extension 20 (column 4, lines 55-60) which extends in an axial direction, the extension 20 cooperating with the at least one plug contact 42 in such a manner that the extension in the first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch) locks the plug contact 42 against falling out and, in the second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock), rigidly holds the plug contact 42 in the base body 12a.

-- In reference to claim 4,

the fitting part (14, 16) is captively connected with the base body 12a.

-- In reference to claim 5,

Art Unit: 2833

the fitting part (14, 16) or the base body 12a is provided with a guide groove (adjacent 40) (figure 1c), and the base body 12a or the fitting part (14, 16) has a projection 30 which is guided in the guide groove.

-- In reference to claim 6,

the at least one plug contact 42 comprises a clamping screw at the rear end of the at least one plug contact 42, the clamping screw extending in a radial direction with respect to an axial extension of the plug contact 42 and being accessible in the first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch) of the fitting part (14, 16).

-- In reference to claim 7,

the fitting part (14, 16) can be reversibly reciprocated between the first and the second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock).

-- In reference to claim 8,

a base body 12a supporting one or more plug contact 42s, and allowing feeding of an electric feed line 18 in an axial direction towards the plug contact 42; and

a fitting part (14, 16) movable with respect to the base body 12a in a reversible manner from a first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch) to a second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock), wherein,

in the first position (when elements 30 and 14 touch), the fitting part (14, 16) permits a lateral access to each plug contact 42 for electrically connecting the electric feed line 18 to the respective plug contact 42 and, in the second position (when elements 30 and (adjacent 40) interlock), the fitting part (14, 16) covers the at least one plug contact 42 at least laterally.

-- In reference to claim 9,

Art Unit: 2833

a base body 12a in which at least one plug contact 42 is arranged, the at least one plug contact 42 permitting an insertion of an electric feed line 18 into the plug contact 42 in an axial direction from a rear end of at least one plug contact 42, and

a fitting part (14, 16) comprising a side wall, the side wall having at least one expendable area to which a latch element (adjacent 40) is connected, wherein the fitting part (14, 16) is coupled to the base body 12a by means of the latch element (adjacent 40).

** Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laudig et al. (4772222).

-- In reference to claim 1,

a base body 7 in which at least one plug contact 16 is arranged, the at least one plug contact 16 permitting an insertion of an electric feed line 3 in an axial direction from a rear end of the at least one plug contact 16, and

a fitting part 51 which is movable with respect to the base body 7 from a first position (when elements 7 and 51 touch) to a second position (when elements 53 and 58 interlock) and which permits a lateral access at the rear end of the at least one plug contact 16 to the at least one plug contact 16 in the first position (when elements 7 and 51 touch) and, in the second position (when elements 53 and 58 interlock), laterally covers the at least one plug contact 16.

-- In reference to claim 2,

the fitting part 51 is axially movable with respect to the base body 7.

-- In reference to claim 4,

the fitting part 51 is captively connected with the base body 7.

-- In reference to claim 5,

the fitting part 51 or the base body 7 is provided with a guide groove 53, and the base body 7 or the fitting part 51 has a projection 58 which is guided in the guide groove.

-- In reference to claim 7,

the fitting part 51 can be reversibly reciprocated between the first and the second position (when elements 53 and 58 interlock).

-- In reference to claim 8,

a base body 7 supporting one or more plug contacts 16, and allowing feeding of an electric feed line 3 in an axial direction towards the plug contact 16; and

a fitting part 51 movable with respect to the base body 7 in a reversible manner from a first position (when elements 7 and 51 touch) to a second position (when elements 53 and 58 interlock), wherein,

in the first position (when elements 7 and 51 touch), the fitting part 51 permits a lateral access to each plug contact 16 for electrically connecting the electric feed line 3 to the respective plug contact 16 and, in the second position (when elements 53 and 58 interlock), the fitting part 51 covers the at least one plug contact 16 at least laterally.

-- In reference to claim 9,

a base body 7 in which at least one plug contact 16 is arranged, the at least one plug contact 16 permitting an insertion of an electric feed line 3 into the plug contact 16 in an axial direction from a rear end of at least one plug contact 16, and

a fitting part 51 comprising a side wall (adjacent 53), the side wall having at least one expendable area 53 to which a latch element 58 is connected, wherein the fitting part 51 is coupled to the base body 7 by means of the latch element 58.

Art Unit: 2833

Conclusion


- The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Barr, Bowden, Jr. et al., and Lee show the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0952.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh

November 26, 2002



Gary R. Harvey
Primary Examiner